

# QUINTANGO

## QuinTango Members:

Freya Creech, violin  
Joan Singer, violin  
Susanna Mendlow, cello and voice  
Ali Cook, bass and voice  
Emmanuel Trifilio, bandoneon  
Julie Huang Tucker, piano and voice

QuinTango's six musicians are top-notch classical instrumentalists whose distinctive "chamber tango" style blends intimacy and bravado with passion and precision. At home on concert stages, jazz venues or living rooms, these five women and their male bandoneon player are redefining tango with original compositions and new takes on great classics. From the White House to Buenos Aires, festivals in Europe and South America to school rooms in Appalachia, QuinTango's music and personal narratives make lasting connections with every performance.

QuinTango partners with local communities wherever they perform. They have collaborated with public schools, libraries, a half-way house for women parolees, community centers, hospitals, and art galleries. QuinTango has worked with Mayan villages in Guatemala and Mexico, string orchestras in Costa Rica and France, and professional musicians in Campeche, Mexico.

These adventurous chamber musicians bridge cultures and dismantle stereotypes with their stories, performances, recordings and multi-generational, multi-cultural presence. Powered by passion, they are connecting the world one tango at a time.

## **We asked our audience for feedback about their first QuinTango experience. Here's what they said surprised them . . .**

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*"How quickly and totally I was drawn into the style and excitement of the music"*

*"I never expected to be so enthralled"*

*"I found it difficult to contain my impulse to get up and dance"*

*"QuinTango makes it personal. We felt part of the experience."*

*"This was as good as any music we heard in Buenos Aires."*

*"LOVE that concert – and your group -- SO MUCH!! We must have listened 20 times." (livestream)*

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## **QuinTango Videos:**

[Dulce de Leche](#) – (E. Trifilio), performance September 2022

[Libertango](#) (Piazzolla) + [Boca de Fresa](#) (E. Trifilio), performance June 2022

[Peregrina](#) – bilingual music video with vocals – August 2021

## **Memorable Venues:**

The White House, Washington DC – Command Performance

Amalfi Coast Music Festival, Vietri sul Mare, Italia

American Ambassador’s Residence, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Argentine Ambassador’s Residence, Washington DC

Campeche Opera House Paula Toro, Campeche, Mexico

Castello Lancellotti, Lauro, Italia

Consulate of Argentina, New York City

Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University, Palo Alto CA

Embassy of Argentina, Washington DC

Embassy of Colombia, Washington DC

Embassy of Uruguay, Washington DC

Historic Asolo Theatre, Ringling Museum, Sarasota FL

Instituto Filosofico Italiano, Napoli, Italia

Instituto Guatemalteco-Americano, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Jazz Café, Escazu, Costa Rica

Jazz Kitchen, Indianapolis, IN

Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington DC

Kravis Performing Arts Center, Palm Beach FL

Lincoln Center Plaza, New York City

Mendocino Festival, Mendocino CA

Museo del Convento Santo Domingo, Antigua, Guatemala

Palacio de la Musica, Mérida, Mexico

Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Charleston SC

St James Assembly Hall, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands

Teatro Nacional, San José, Costa Rica

Teatro Notariado, Montevideo, Uruguay

Teatro Angela Peralta, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Torquato Tasso, Buenos Aires, Argentina

*We have performed in concert halls, school rooms, libraries, community centers, museums, and living rooms in 28 states. We look forward to visiting 22 more.*

## Comments from press, presenters, and audience:

*“If all this sounds as if this writer has lost his wits, blame it on QuinTango, the terrific quintet currently playing tango concerts at the Midtown Theatre (a Piccolo Spoleto event). For haunting melody, rhythm that makes every part of your anatomy move, and a feeling of warmth and enthusiasm, QuinTango is downright wonderful.”*

Robert Jones, Spoleto Critic, The Post and Courier (Charleston, S.C.)

*“One of Washington’s finest instrumental ensembles...”*

Eric Brace, The Washington POST

*“Last night, the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen was packed with lovers of this alluring, enduring music to hear QuinTango, five classically trained musicians, who gave it their absolute all. The night was cold, windy and wet, but the music was definitely hot.”*

James Jerritt, Richmond Times-Dispatch

*“With great respect for the essence of the tango, the North American quintet offered us a program of sixteen pieces...The group showed a thorough understanding of the rhythmic structure of this type of music. The...well-modulated instrumental balance, so crucial to the tango, allowed us to observe the technical capability of each member of the group and so to appreciate each musician’s successful handling of tango’s constant emotional tensions....performed with exceptional mastery...the group’s admirable precision shone....luxurious, descriptive, very dramatic and demanding piece..which QuinTango delivered with striking poise.”*

Alberto Zuñiga, La Nación, San José, Costa Rica [text translated]

*“Tonight you conquered Buenos Aires!”*

Ambassador Lino Gutierrez, U.S. Ambassador to Argentina  
(following a concert at the Embassy in Buenos Aires)

*“QuinTango gave the best concert we ever had here.”*

Colombian Ambassador to the USA, after a concert at the Ambassador’s residence in D.C.

*“QuinTango was amazing! Very professional and organized... Joan steered the music in a softer yet inspiring direction. Patients came from their rooms, staff from their units, visitors and families heard the music and sat down to enjoy. The dancers added another wonderful dimension. The local news came out to get the story which aired that evening. Music and art in healthcare creates a very healing environment. It transports people from a scary place or procedure to a comfortable and relaxing place. We would definitely have QuinTango back.”*

Martha Hunter, Hospital Coordinator, Martha Jefferson Hospital, Charlottesville VA

*"I cannot appropriately verbalize how marvelous QuinTango's concert was last week at the Barter Theatre. Sublime, passionate... those are the adjectives which come to mind! Your concert was for me (and for many others) the highlight of this year's Virginia Highlands Festival. The several cases of CDs that were sold and the thunderous standing ovation that QuinTango received surely attested to the audience's enjoyment of the evening's music."*

Ben Jennings, Performing Arts Chair, Virginia Highlands Festival, Abingdon VA

*"[Our students] ...really enjoyed the variety of music played during the concert as well as hearing the back story of each song before it was performed. Having dynamic female performers on stage was a great bonus for our girls to see. Adding the two dancers really enhanced the music for the students. It was a great blend of artistry!"*

Kate Briante, Old Fields School

*"I wanted to say you guys were extraordinary in Alexandria's first night. I am originally from Argentina, and stopped at the concert without an idea of who you are, and loved everything. Will certainly buy your CDs and bring to friends in Argentina. Thanks for the great performance."*

Zulema Garraffo, audience member

*"Three standing ovations! This was a first for our opening performance of the season. They were great with the audience, explaining the different types of tangos and how the composers felt while writing the music. It was wonderful. I loved everything about QuinTango and will have them back for sure."*

Ginger Branton, Richlands, VA

*"We have had two responses to QuinTango's show:*

- 1. ABSOLUTE RAVES*
- 2. Regret for NOT being present*

*My dear, it was an incredible night, everyone in the hall was delighted and impressed. The music itself was incredible, and as I am sure you know, all of you are incredible musicians. No one missed that. the dancing was a delight. As were the dancers. WHAT AN EVENING!!! Thank you thank you THANK YOU!!!!"*

Wendy Harriman , Presenter, Sanibel, FL

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